

THULE TIMES

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Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Master Sgt. Garry Berry gets a wake up call by Capt. Kel Hannum, 821st Support Squadron, but more importantly, he gets his senior stripes. 1,566 master sergeants Air Force-wide were selected for promotion today.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Master Sgt. Charles McLaurin gets his first set of senior stripes from Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander.

Two at Team Thule earn senior

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)—Air Force officials recently selected 1,566 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant.

Team Thule congratulated two senior master sergeant selects: Garry Berry and Charles McLaurin, both of the 821st Support Squadron.

The complete list of selectees will be posted to the Air Force Personnel Center's Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/ March 20.

The central evaluation board 04E8, which convened here Jan. 26 to Feb. 12, considered 16,516 master sergeants for a 9.48 percent select rate, 3.48 percent above the minimum promotion-rate objective of 6 percent.

The average score for those selected was 671.72, with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.70 and 20.15 years, respectively. The average score was based on the following point averages:

- 134.98 for enlisted performance reports.
- 34.02 for time in grade.
- 21.17 for time in service.
- 20.47 for decorations.
- 69.13 for Air Force supervisory examination.
- 391.95 for board score.

Those selected will be promoted to senior master sergeant beginning in April. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Webber takes command of 21st SW

Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal relinquished command of the 21st Space Wing to Brig. Gen. Richard Webber in a ceremony March 11 at Hangar 140.

General Deal will be taking command of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station.

"Today, I pass the reins to General Webber," said

General Deal. "I expect the 21st Space Wing will soar even higher under his steady and experienced hand."

Prior to his assignment at the 21st Space Wing, General Webber was the Director, Logistics and Communications, Chief Information Officer and Chief Sustainment Officer, at Headquarters Air Force Space Command.

General Webber was responsible for policy, plans, architectures, integration, space systems sustainment,

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Thule implements plan to make dorm rooms non-smoking

By Master Sgt. Rick Shaffer
Thule Air Base First Sergeant

In the next couple of weeks a smoking booth will be installed in the third floor day room of building 99. Once this project is completed, smoking will not be authorized anywhere in the building outside of this designated area. Coinciding with this date, buildings 98, 105, 134, and 145 will become completely smoke free. Residents of buildings 98 and 145 who smoke will be given the opportunity to move to building 99, either by exchanging rooms with a agreeable occupant or by waiting for a room to become available through normal PCS moves. This is obviously a concern for the smokers of these buildings, who have raised questions regarding this change in policy.

Why am I no longer able to smoke in the privacy of my own room?

Unfortunately, the ventilation system in the three story dwellings is poor and a person smoking in the privacy of their room is unknowingly



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

A smoking booth, like this one at the base community center, will soon be installed in the third floor dayroom of building 99. The booth is part of an overall plan to make specific dormitories "smoke free".

sharing their cigarette with other occupants. Nonsmokers were taping ventilation ducts closed, placing towels under doors, and spraying deodorant into bathrooms before entering them in order to escape second hand smoke. We can not expect nonsmokers to live under these conditions, therefore this new smoking policy has been adopted.

Is this policy unique to Thule AB or have other bases adopted it?

This policy is not unique to Thule AB. In fact, other bases have taken no smoking one step further. For instance, Peterson AFB is completely smoke free outside designated smoke areas. No one, to include dependents and retirees, will be allowed to smoke outdoors

unless in an authorized smoke area. Over the past 10 years the Air Force has pushed for a smoke free force. This new policy is just another example of moving towards a healthier military. You can expect this to be a trend at other Air Force installations.

Why isn't a smoking booth placed in each dorm?

The ratio of smokers to nonsmokers leans heavily in the nonsmoker direction and there aren't enough smokers to fill up an entire dorm. Therefore, the decision was made to make one of the enlisted dorms entirely smoke free. If, in the future, the ratio of smokers to nonsmokers changes, this policy can be readdressed by leadership.

DOD establishes additional sexual assault hot line

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—The Department of Defense announced March 4 that an additional toll-free telephone number has been established for people who want to contact or provide information to the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.

The number, (800) 497-6261, is staffed 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld recently ordered a senior-level inquiry into the reported sexual assaults in Iraq and Kuwait, and how the armed services treat victims of sexual assault. Army and Air Force officials have opened similar investigations.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said that the findings of the 90-day review are due by April 30.

"Every servicemember deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity," Mr. Chu said. "Sexual assault is criminal conduct and will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense."

Mr. Chu said he believes the information from the call center will help the task force and defense officials in developing policies and programs to improve assistance for victims of assaults and enhance efforts at prevention.

Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Nuuk, Greenland's capital city, is home to some 15,000 Greenlanders. The Greenland Home Rule government offices are in Nuuk, as well as headquarters for businesses, such as Air Greenland and Greenland Resources. Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Cmdr. Holmer Sogaard, Danish Liaison Officer, recently visited the city.

Base commander visits Greenland's capital

By Col. Thomas Walker
821st Air Base Group commander

The Danish Liaison Officer and I visited Nuuk Feb. 26 through March 2 to meet with members of the Danish and Greenland Home Rule

governments. While there, we met with many key officials discussing Thule operations and ways in which the base can, and does, support communities in northwest Greenland.

When I arrived I was surprised to see how closely the city resembled a skiing community—as if somebody plucked a skiing town out of Colorado's Rocky Mountains and placed it in Greenland. Large apartment buildings and houses of different colors populate Nuuk's jagged landscape. Near the city's airport is a small downhill ski slope as well as miles and miles of cross country ski trails. However, Nuuk foremost is a harbor city—home to Royal Arctic Line, which has participated in Thule's resupply operations, as well as many privately owned boats for hunting and pleasure.

Nuuk's population of 15,000 may be small compared to other cities, but the capital city is huge in its own right. The city hosts the Greenland Home Rule government, cultural and artistic attractions, and is also a center for commerce.

I had the pleasure to meet Jonathan Motzfeldt, chairman of the Greenland Home Rule parliament as well as a former premier of Greenland. Motzfeldt is recognized as a key figure in the formation of the Home Rule government in 1979. I also had an opportunity to meet Josef Motzfeldt, chairman of the Home Rule's foreign and security policy committee.

Both gentlemen hosted separate lunches for the DLO and me in Nuuk's Hans Egede house, the oldest building in the city, built in 1728. Incidentally, the house was also the location where Danish, Greenlandic, and American officials gathered a year ago February 20 to sign the memorandum of understanding resulting in the return of the Dundas Peninsula to the Home Rule government.

Much was accomplished in discussing how all members of Team Thule are working to support the nearby communities in northwest Greenland. Some of my highlights

Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Col. Walker and Cmdr. Sogaard in downtown Nuuk.

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“Nuuk” continued from Page 3

involved our near-record year raising money for Operation Julemand as well as the Air Greenland contract—accomplishments all of us can be proud of.

I also had the chance to meet High Commissioner Peter Lauritzen, the top Danish official in Greenland. The high commissioner’s office is an important liaison between the Home Rule and Danish governments. I had the opportunity to sail on the high commissioner’s ship into the Nuuk fjord, where we weighed anchor about 30 kilometers inland and went ashore for a hike.

The sights were beautiful and serene—small wonder many Greenlanders have build summer homes in the area.

Touring the sites in and around the city was great, as was meeting some of Nuuk’s citizens and seeing their accomplishments. Just as I challenge all members of Team Thule to make Thule a better place, it was evident that many in Nuuk carry the same philosophy. An example of this came in a performance at Katuaq, the city’s cultural center, where some 100 children from six



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Col. Walker tours the Greenland Home Rule parliament with Mikaela Engell, Greenland Home Rule, and Peter Lauritzen, Denmark’s High Commissioner in Greenland.

different countries were giving a one more example of that. Though the capstone musical and dance United States, Denmark, and Greenland performance concluding a two-week Home Rule continue to negotiate a new cultural diversity camp, which was defense agreement—one which may planned and coordinated by Nuuk’s impact Thule’s future—there is no citizens. doubt that a common vision exists for

My experiences in Greenland have continued cooperation and relationship been great—the visit to Nuuk was just building.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Jonathan Motzfeldt, chairman of the Greenland Home Rule Parliament, talks with Col. Walker in the Hans Egede House, the oldest house in Greenland. While in Nuuk, the colonel met with leaders of the Greenland Home Rule government.

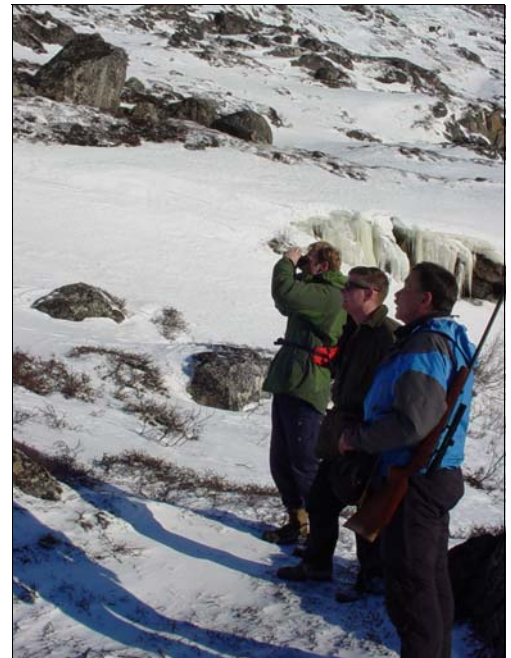


Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

High Commissioner Peter Lauritzen took Col. Walker on a sailing/hunting trip while in Nuuk the last week of February.

New club hones public speaking skills

By 1st Lt. George Sconyers
821st Air Base Group

Thule Toastmasters is a club being formed to help individuals in the community improve their speaking skills, get to know each other, and have fun—all members of Team Thule are invited to the next Toastmasters demonstration meeting from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. March 17 in the TOW Club Ballroom.

What membership in the club can do for people is simple: it will improve your communication skills. Added benefits include gaining a helpful (and sought after) entry for a résumé, professional development and leadership opportunities, and an opportunity to get to know some of the other members of “Team Thule.”

Toastmasters is an international organization formed in 1924. Today, there are 9,500 clubs in 70 countries and the organization has become very well-known and highly respected by business leaders worldwide.

Toastmasters International is a not for profit organization whose mission is to help people develop their communication skills. This is accomplished through Toastmasters clubs. There are no instructors or professors and there are no tests of grades. A typical toastmasters club consists of 20 to 30 people who meet weekly throughout the year. Some clubs meet in the mornings and others in the evenings with meetings lasting one to two hours, depending on the size of the club.

The success of the program lies in the time-tested

structure of meetings. A meeting will start with an introduction by the President of the club and an introduction of those holding positions for the particular meeting. At that time, the Toastmaster will stand and present Table Topics. Table Topics are designed to test impromptu speaking and are 1:30 to 2:30 minutes long. Suggested topics may include: your favorite color is, what your favorite present was, whether you prefer hot or cold, etc. After a Table Topic is completed, the group will provide constructive criticism on where the speaker was strong and where he could improve. After all Table Topics are complete, the members will vote on who the best speaker of the group was.

Next, the Toastmaster transitions into prepared speeches. At this time, members who are set to make a speech will come to the front and the evaluation process will be reevaluated. After completing particular speeches—the subjects assigned by Toastmasters International—members receive certifications recognizing their accomplishments.

Finally, the meeting will be closed by the President by discussing any club business that may be occurring. There are fees involved with joining Toastmasters. The fee right now is \$35, which covers a members initial materials and membership fee. The club is open to all members of the Thule community to include military, contractors, and civilians.

We are working hard to ensure that you are able to enjoy this opportunity. For more information, call 1st Lt George Sconyers at 2711.

It's all about the kids!

Courtesy photo

Pre-kindergarten children from Fuentes Elementary School, near Austin, Texas, pose for a picture on a sunny day. The children recently sent hand-made Valentine's cards to the men and women of Thule Air Base. In addition, they have been learning about Thule Air Base and Greenland over the course of the year thanks to their teacher, Beth Hagen (who, incidentally, is Col. Thomas Walker's sister). The children sent Christmas cards as well, and in return, the base sent the children information on how to keep track of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. Thanks to all the students for their interest in Thule Air Base!



Research experiment begins at Thule

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers
821st Air Base Group

A team of scientists from the Copenhagen Muscle Research Center will be staging operations out of Thule Air Base over the next two months for a scientific research experiment aimed at gathering data (and hopefully, answers as well) regarding obesity.

In the World Health Organization perspective of the future, it is anticipated that by 2020, 70 percent of all chronic diseases and causes of death will be due to lifestyle factors (obesity being one of them). A major challenge for medical research is to unravel the mechanisms by which people's lifestyle affects the development of chronic diseases. Therein lies the focus of the study.

Sixteen people—10 men and six women—and eight Inuit hunters from Qaanaaq were chosen among hundreds of applicants to participate in the study aimed at understanding why people get fat.

The following summary regarding the basis of the project is taken from the Muscle Research Center's point paper regarding the expedition: "A major contributing factor for the development of chronic metabolic diseases is how well skeletal muscle can utilize lipids for its energy needs. In this

respect, animals vary significantly. Migrating birds have an extraordinary capacity to both store and use lipids. It is a prerequisite for them being able to fly and cover very long distances.

"In comparison, humans have a very poor capacity, although there are a few exceptions. One such group are the Inuits, many of whom still live a traditional life as hunters. In contrast, most Danes cannot enlarge their lipid usage very much. This project takes advantage of these differences. The studies encompass Inuits (both those who live according to tradition and those who have adopted a more "Danish" lifestyle) and sedentary Danes.

"This latter group will be studied when untrained and after a very extensive 6-week training period with 5-6 hours a day of trekking on skis. The preference for skiing instead of walking or cycling relates to the fact that with skiing the upper body will be engaged in the exercise, which is essential as skeletal muscles of the arm-shoulder region have an exceptionally low fat combusting capacity," according to the point paper.

The group will spend the next 45 days in the experiment, comprised of three dogsled expeditions (one-week, two-week, and three-weeklong expeditions).

"By unraveling the mechanisms behind these differences between Inuits and Danes and possible effects of training and diet, the results will have a major impact in the future on how to best prevent lifestyle related metabolic diseases," according to the research center.

The first part of the study, which included studies on Inuit living the "traditional way" in Qaanaaq, went extremely well, said the scientists.

The studies scheduled now until May include two parts. One part examines Inuits who have taken up a "Danish" lifestyle as well as Danes with a similar lifestyle. The second part of the project has a primary goal to evaluate the adaptive process taking place in sedentary subjects undergoing strenuous exercise when skiing for approximately 40 days in the Thule Air Base region with studies before (A), during (B), and after (C) the exercise period.

A Danish television crew will be covering the expedition for the duration, airing a 3-hour documentary on DR-TV1 this fall.

For more information about the expedition, please call Tech. Sgt. Charles Dickens at 2389.

(Editor's note: Sgt. Dickens also contributed to this article.)

Winter Driving Course

Photo by Capt. Nick Folz

All at Thule are required to take the Winter Driving Course, a half-day course of classroom instruction concluding with a practical driving exercise, shown here. The Winter Driving Course Team is comprised of volunteer instructors and two supervisory course coordinators.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Dawn Moninger, 821st Air Base Group safety office.



History month honors women heroes

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Wyman

435th Military Equal Opportunity

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)

— Throughout history, American women actively participated in military campaigns, whether as members of the armed forces or as civilians. During the Civil War, some women enlisted disguised as men, while others fought alongside their husbands. Several women took their dedication to even more advanced levels.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked for the Union Army as a scout, nurse and a spy. She also helped prepare food for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment – composed entirely of black soldiers and known as the Glory Brigade – before its heroic but futile attack on Fort Wagner in 1863.

Rose O'Neal Greenhow became one of the most renowned spies of the Civil War. Among her accomplishments was the secret message she sent to Gen.

Pierre G.T. Beauregard which ultimately helped him win the battle of Bull Run. She spied so successfully for the Confederacy that Jefferson Davis credited her with winning the battle of Manassas. Upon her death in 1864, Ms. Greenhow received a full military honors burial.

After the death of her husband in 1864, Sarah Thompson worked in Tennessee to aid the Union Army by delivering dispatches and recruiting information to Union officers. When Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his men spent the night in Greeneville, Tenn., Ms. Thompson managed to slip away and alert Union forces to his whereabouts. She also served as an army nurse in Knoxville, Tenn., and in Cleveland. She was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, Va.

Clara Barton's Civil War work began in April 1861. After the Battle of Bull Run, she established an agency to obtain and distribute supplies to wounded soldiers. In 1862, she

obtained permission to travel behind the battle lines, reaching some of the grimmest battlefields of the war and serving during the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond, Va. Ms. Barton aided soldiers from both the North and South. In 1881, she established the American Red Cross.

Dr. Mary Walker, physician and Civil War field surgeon, was the first woman to receive the Medal of Honor. Much ahead of her time, Dr. Walker, in 1855, was also one of the first women in the United States to earn a medical degree. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Dr. Walker volunteered to work on the Civil War battlefields caring for the wounded. Denied a commission as a medical officer, she volunteered anyway and was eventually appointed assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry.

These are but a few shining examples of heroic women and the significant contributions they have consistently made to the United States.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance available at Thule

The 2003 tax season is now in full swing, and Thule's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) advisors are available to help you file your personal income tax returns. This year's tax volunteers are 1st Lt. Lance Brenneke (x-2716, lance.brenneke@thule.af.mil) and Tech. Sgt. Eric McClure (x-3096, eric.mcclure@thule.af.mil).

Please contact either of them to set up an appointment. They currently do not have the capability of filing your tax returns online, but are expecting that capability soon. In the meantime, they are still able to help you send in your tax returns through the post office if you so choose.

All VITA representatives have passed a comprehensive Internal Revenue Service test and are qualified to assist you within the scope of the VITA program. VITA volunteers

are qualified to file forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, Schedules A, B, and C-EZ.

Those eligible to take advantage of the VITA program include: Active Duty and Retired Military and their Dependents, Retired Military Widow(ers), National Guard Members activated on Title 10 Orders, Activated Reservists on orders and Ex-Spouses of Active Duty and Retired Military (20/20 rule and must hold ID Card).

Before scheduling an appointment, please be sure to fill out a tax preparation checklist and taxpayer information sheet. Both documents can be found on the 21st Space Wing Judge Advocate Web site, located at <https://halfway.peterson.af.mil/21sw/JA/taxdocs.html>.

FormFlow phasing out by April 1, PureEdge becomes the new standard

As of April 1, all FormFlow forms will be removed from the e-pubs website (<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>) as PureEdge is the Air Force standard.

If there is a particular form that it is mission critical to have FormFlow for, go to e-pubs and download that form to a local computer prior to April 1.

After that date, it will be necessary to contact the e-pubs helpdesk to get the forms.

Thule's 2004 African American Heritage Month

By Master Sgt. Charles McLaurin
821st Support Squadron

Thule's African American Heritage Committee proudly celebrated the richness and diversity of Thule Air Base, Greenland, by commemorating February's African American Heritage Month. The national theme for the celebration of AAHM this year was "Brown vs. Board of Education (50th Anniversary)".

Americans have recognized African American history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month". Today, it's called "African American Heritage Month". Although the name has changed over the years, the principle has remained the same. What you might not know is that African American History had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although African Americans have been in America at least as far back as



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elaine Abraham

Fashion Show participants strike a final pose for the TOW Club crowd.

colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of AAHM, and more importantly the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, Woodson spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He later went on to earn

a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Why celebrate in February you may ask? Well, Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the African American population: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

We at Thule celebrated a successful month of events. First we had a precursor to February with the 2004 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Service on Jan. 15. Second we opened the observance month of February with a kick-off of fellowship with a "Soul Food Taste" Feb. 7, praised by the community. Next up was Feb. 12 with the "Thuleville Barber Shop Radio Show", a little mix of old school and new school. On Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, a "Fashion Show" was presented at the TOW Club. A documentary film on "Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks" was shown Feb. 19. To complete the month, we were honored to have Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis as our guest speaker for the African American Heritage Luncheon on Feb. 26.

The African American Heritage Month committee would like to thank Team Thule for all the support in making this year's events a success.

Art Moore, Arctec, put his soul, and a lot of hard work, into the "Soul Food Tasting" Feb. 7



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Photos by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Clockwise from above: Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander, and CPO Lars Iversen, Danish Liaison Office, prepare to toast the sun's return Feb. 21. The sun appeared (sort of) around 1:05 p.m. Feb 21—the clouds in the distance didn't diminish the celebration (bottom right) as Team Thule gathered to propose a toast to the sun's return.

Here Comes the Sun

Thule celebrates First Light

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

821st Air Base Group

Thule has a way of making us realize things we've taken for granted, and in return, gives us a deeper appreciation for that which we have.

But, seriously folks, scientists estimate that the sun has been around for millions and millions of years and that it will be around for millions more. Yet, for a few months this winter, Thule showed us that you can't always take the sun for granted (well, at least not sunlight)

Team Thule welcomed the sun's return after it's three month hiatus at 1:05 p.m. Feb. 21 during a brief "Sunrise Ceremony" in front of the 821st Air Base Group headquarters building.

Those who make the trek to the radar day-in and day-out had been seeing the sun for a couple of weeks

leading up to the event; however, for main base, the sun's rays hit the headquarters building for the first time since November.

"Tradition dictates that we gather to commemorate the moment when the sun's rays touch the Headquarters building—officially ending the long dark season," said Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander. "Tradition also dictates that the base commander and the DLO propose a toast to the sun's return."

All who attended were invited to toast the sun's return with a communion-sized glass of...well... something that made you forget it was 20 below zero that day.

Though the sun only showed itself for a few moments, Team Thule celebrated its return all day long, both at the Sunshine Ceremony and then at the First Light Festival.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, one comment made which everybody should take to heart is the importance of taking care of one another. "Traditional, the time of the sun's return is a difficult time for people living in Northern Greenland," said Col. Walker. "It's been a long dark season and we've made it through because of the involvement of all members of Team Thule. Keep staying involved and keep taking care of one another."

Since the first light, Team Thule has been gaining approximately 20 minutes of sunlight each day. The last "official" sunrise, according to Phil Eddy, chief weather forecaster, is April 22 at 2 a.m. But, with North Mountain obscuring the view, main base won't see the sun up constantly—cutting a circle in the sky—until April 27.

Recently promoted to major or senior master sergeant?
Did you just arrive at Thule Air Base? Let folks at home know about it!
Fill out a Hometown News Release—stop by Public Affairs, Bldg. 461, rm. 9, or call 5678.

Behind the curtains of the 2nd Annual Thule First Light Festival

By Winnie Poulsen
Greenland Contractors

Preparations

After a successful First Light Festival I almost get a sweat on my forehead thinking back on all the work it takes to put a Festival together.

Just a few days after the First Night Festival in November 2003, an application for funds to get a Danish band to Thule in 2004 was sent to the Greenland Contractors Welfare Fund.

After receiving a positive answer, I immediately called the first meeting with the Festival group whose members are both from the Air Force and GC. There wasn't too much time and many things needed to be discussed. Decisions needed to be made regarding what kind of music we should have at the next festival, when should the festival take place, who was going to be



Courtesy photo

Team Thule dance the night away Feb. 21 during the First Light Festival. The First Light, along with the First Night Festival in November, have become traditions at Thule—a way to celebrate the sun's return after a long winter and then to say good-bye in the wintertime.

responsible for working the various areas, and much more.

The work areas are many when a festival is about to become a reality, e.g. making Hangar 7 ready, which included stage set-up, lights, heating, ventilation, table arranging, chairs, buffet and bar arrangements.

Other tasks that needed to be done: A menu had to be composed, tables needed to be decorated, the Hangar

needed to be decorated, bands had to be booked, funding/sponsors needed to be found, PR for the festival would be essential, T-shirts printed, and other things needed to be ordered from the United States and Denmark well before the festival date. The list is endless. And last but not least there had to be arranged for a Hangar crew in form of construction workers from CE Enterprise as well as volunteers. Without the crew, we would have nothing but an empty Hangar for the party.

During the whole process, the festival committee met several times to exchange ideas and good advice. We started each meeting updating each other on our progress and also by addressing any issues that may have come up since the last meeting. Finally, we finish off each festival with a "Lessons Learned" meeting where good and bad points about the festival are exchanged.

My responsibility was to find the right Danish band. After searching the Internet, talking with different bands, and listening to demo CDs - many of which did not sound promising - I got a hold of RubberBand. They were a big hit at Thule's first First Light Festival in



Courtesy photo

Members of the RubberBand perform at the First Light Festival, Feb. 21 in Hangar 7. The band was a hit at the first First Light Festival in 2003 and returned this year performing popular hits by the Beatles.

"Festival" continued on Page 11

Thule's Top 4

Organization open to all NCOs at Thule

Staff Report

821st Air Base Group

All staff sergeants through senior master sergeants assigned to Thule AB are eligible to participate in the Thule Top 4 Association. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:45 p.m. in the TOW Club ballroom.

The Top 4 Association is chartered to promote professionalism, development and camaraderie throughout the ranks and to set an example of unified quality leadership and management.

The Top 4 promotes various functions: social events, such as awards banquets; humanitarian events and fundraisers, such as Operation Julemand; and professional programs, such as quarterly Airmen appreciation events, the Sharp Troop Award program, and retirement ceremonies. The association works to enhance morale, community

relations and recognition programs.

The Thule Top 4 Association has two main committees:

The Professional Development committee assists the first sergeant with the quarterly Sharp Troop recognition program and it organizes and conducts NCO Inductions and monthly promotion ceremonies.

The Events Committee plans special events, such as fundraisers and airmen appreciation dinners, and assists with retirement ceremonies.

For more information regarding the Thule Top 4 Association, contact one of the following individuals:

President: Master Sgt. Charles Mclaurin

Vice President: Tech. Sgt. Eric McClure

Secretary: Tech. Sgt. Corey Burnett

Treasurer: Tech. Sgt. Chad Keller

Events Chairman: Staff. Sgt. Stacey Pennix

Professional Development Committee Chairman: Master Sgt. Garry Berry

"Festival" continued from Page 10

2003. I thought maybe they could help us welcome back the sun in style once more. They could – and they did!

RubberBand was thrilled that they were asked to come to Thule again. A contract was signed and I then started planning for their arrival and stay at TAB. Many other things, as you can imagine, needed to be tended to and fall into place in a short period of time. The logistics were endless.

The band itinerary is a chapter all of its own. The details of the week also included the Carson Downey Band, who also performed at the Festival. Coordinating visits for the two bands meant that many details needed to fit together and be coordinated at higher levels.

Throughout the week, there were arrangements for the bands to play at the TOW Club, go Thule Tripping if the weather allowed for that, (unfortunately, not this time), mission briefing by the 821st Air Base Group commander, Col. Thomas Walker, sound test at the Hangar on the day of the festival, and visits to the 12th Space Warning Squadron and Detachment 3.

The Day Approaches

Two weeks until the festival, the concerns were huge. There were doubts regarding whether or not the Carson Downey Band would reach Thule in time for the festival. The date for their arrival was changing a lot. And if that wasn't enough, the poor weather conditions further down the coast caused the cancellation of the plane, which had RubberBand as passengers. Nobody seemed to know when RubberBand would arrive at TAB - my hair was getting grayer by the minute!

Thursday morning I got the long awaited call: RubberBand was on their way - they would be landing in a few minutes.

Both RubberBand and the Carson Downey Band arrived at Thule in good shape. Mette Linnemann, Mitch Herbert, and MSgt. Valerie Bailey took

care of Carson Downey Band. Louise Adolph and I took care of RubberBand providing them with ID cards and important Thule information. Lunch at DDH appeared to be a nice reunion for RubberBand who are all nuts about the food. The band seemed very excited about being here again despite the turbulent flight – which seemed to have been somewhat of a roller coaster ride.

RubberBand did an excellent job and had a blast from the time they got off the plane until they were on the plane again returning to Denmark. The Carson Downey Band also did an excellent job at the festival with a nice mix of blues, jazz and rock-and-roll.

Both bands enjoyed their stay and were excited that they could help us welcome back the sun. I hope that you enjoyed the festival as well!

**Want to make a difference
at Team Thule?**

**Volunteer for the Thule Air
Base Color Guard!**

**For more info., call Tech.
Sgt. Chris Ramos at 2535.**



A perspective on those who work so that others may play

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers
821st Air Base Group

I've got the coin of all coins here at Thule. I guarantee it. Trumps the commander's coin in a heartbeat.

There's a story about this coin—it starts with the First Light Festival and a sergeant named Jason Winkle.

Jason Winkle is from Texas. The security forces staff sergeant used to play baseball and was going to college on a full-ride...a time in his life he says was a good time then, but a good learning experience now. Joining the Air Force was an easy decision for him,

especially after his father made him an appointment with the local Air Force recruiter. He is divorced, but on good terms with his ex-wife. He has a three-year-old daughter who he talks to most every day.

He has served for five years now and he's pretty sure he'll be "a lifer." He comes across as a clown at times—like the time I asked him, "So, where do the cops go for doughnuts around here?" and he answered with, "BMEWS and Detachment 3." But, when he's serious, you know he's serious (especially when he's breaking up a bunch of drunks at a party). When it comes down to it, Sgt. Winkle is a man of few words.

Those were some of the things I learned about Sgt. Winkle when I spent 12 hours on patrol with him the night of Feb. 21—the First Light Festival.

My experience with the Air Force security forces had previously been assisting with ID card checks at the front gate and undergoing a couple of random vehicle searches.

However, there I was on a Saturday in my BDUs at Bldg. 363, the Security Forces Squadron, meeting up with Sgt. Winkle. It was 6 p.m. and I was ready for my first "COPS" experience. First stop—Hangar 7 for the First Light Festival, and more importantly, food.

On the way over, Sgt. Winkle said we'd be dropping by the festival periodically throughout the evening since over half the base would be partying there. I later learned the directive was one of many passed on during guard mount, where the flight sergeant meets with his troops to pass on key instructions before the shift begins.

While eating dinner, I asked Sgt. Winkle the question that



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers
Staff Sgt. Jason Winkle, Airmen 1st Class Joe Petruzzi, Robert Walters, and Jordan Fisher, line up for guard mount prior to beginning a 12-hour shift. All are members of Delta Flight, which had the responsibility of working during the night of the First Light Festival Feb. 21.

I thought would form the focus of this story: "So, what do you think about having to work when all these other folks are out partying?" "Doesn't bother me," he said. Sgt. Winkle is a man of few words.

Back on patrol, Sgt. Winkle pointed out various places on base that are protected by alarm systems and explained his role in responding to an alarm, if there were a malfunction or any other such act that would set off an alarm.

We moved on to patrol out around the fuel tanks, by the old hangars, and down by

the pier. We covered the entire main base in a less than hour—nothing to report except cold temperatures and brisk winds.

Next, we drove out to Detachment 3, where the cops perform a security check at least once during all of their shifts, checking locks and seals to ensure nothing had been tampered with. Sgt. Winkle performed the task thoroughly, weaving through a maze of corridors and machinery the inexperienced would easily get lost in.

10 p.m. and all is well. We had completed checks around the base and at Det. 3 and had also stopped by the festival about three times. Seemed like a good time to try and revive the angle I was working: "Looks like those folks at the festival are having a good time," I said, "how can you say that doesn't bother you?"

"This is my job...I'm working tonight," he said. Sgt. Winkle is a man of few words.

After a brief stop at the law enforcement desk, it was back to Det. 3 for midnight chow. Every night, there's a dining facility employee who serves a meal to the Det. 3 workers and the cops on shift. One in particular, according to Sgt. Winkle, is the best. "I hope that guy is working tonight," he said. That's about the time I began to realize just how routine things must get while working a typical shift—when a highlight is wondering who's working at the dining hall, if steaks will be available, and so on.

Fortunately, the best chef was working that night and midnight meal was great—perhaps even better because it

"COPS" continued on Page 13

"COPS" continued from Page 12

marked the half-way point in the shift.

1 a.m. All is well...still, nothing to report. Back on main base, Sgt. Winkle and I are preparing to set up a "speed trap." Radar gun in hand, I zapped any taxi driver who crossed my path (about three over the course of a half hour—all of whom traveled precisely at 25 mph). I asked Sgt. Winkle if he ever got sick of the apparent boredom. "I've been at bases working shifts where I've responded to incidents back-to-back all night long. I've had to deal with drunk drivers at the front gate, domestic disputes, and dormitory parties gone bad. And, I've had nights like this," he said.

"Do you like your job?"

"There's nothing else I'd rather be doing," said Sgt. Winkle. "Responding to calls keeps things busy—takes the boredom away. I love that part of my job. But, it usually also means that somebody is going to get into some trouble. That said, I'd rather have nights like this."

We had that conversation around 2 a.m.. That's about the time I began to realize what this story was going to be about. I didn't know what to expect when going out on patrol with the cops for the night, but I was interested in their perspective on having to work while others were enjoying the First Light Festival. Simply put, working while others were playing didn't bother these cops one bit...because they know that theirs is a job that has to be done.

Back to the First Light Festival—it's 2:30 a.m. and the crowd is pretty much gone, save about 40 people talking and drinking at one end of the Hangar.

"Time to go folks," Sgt. Winkle said to the crowd. Again, he is a man of few words.

Busting up parties is always a little tense because a person can never know what to expect from a drunk. However, that night—save one person who would've been content passing out in the hangar (he eventually left)—the First light Festival ended without incident.

Then, when it seemed like the final

three hours of the shift were going to be smooth, there was a response to one of the dormitories after someone had falling down some stairs. I'm not going to say much more about the incident except that it got our adrenaline pumping and kept us at the hospital for about two hours..

5 a.m. and all is well again. We went to the dining facility for breakfast and talked about the events during the night. There were other conversations too—"Best experience in the AF?" "Worst?" "Goals?" And so on. Mostly, though, it was a damn good sergeant showing me a new perspective on Thule and the Air Force as well.

There were a dozen or so people who asked me during that night and afterward, "Why? Why go around with the cops?"

Why not? It's not just about the Sgt. Winkle, or the cops, but rather BMEWS, Det. 3, Arctec, Harris, or Greenland Contractors—all the organizations with people who work so that others may play. I think I've always

understood and appreciated what the cops (and others) do, but to experience it first hand, especially the night of the First Light Festival—that's another thing all together.

At the end of the shift, Sgt. Winkle reached into his pocket and took out an 821st Security Forces Squadron coin. "On behalf of all the folks on D-flight, I'd like to give you this coin for coming out on shift." Again, Sgt. Winkle is a man of few words. Then again, when your actions speak louder than your words, there isn't much that you have to say. I was left wishing I had something to give in return, to which Sgt. Winkle responded saying, "It's all good."

Sgt. Winkle...that was pretty cool of you to give me that coin; to me, it represents the day I gained a new perspective on Air Force life. For the rest of you...coin check me tomorrow or up until the day I die, and I guarantee that's the coin I'll have with me. Question is...do you have your coin yet?

Team Building



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

As part of a Greenland Contractors-sponsored communications exercise, Air Force members and GC employees got together to brainstorm ideas on how to improve the "Team Thule" concept March 8. Ideas included holding open houses to showcase what different shops and offices do for Thule, cultural events to promote understanding between Danes, Greenlanders, and Americans, and more social events to get people together.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Lewis

Tops In Blue performs at Thule Feb. 26. The group, known as the Air Force's "expeditionary" entertainers, will visit 22 countries during their tour and will perform 150 times.

Tops In Blue entertains Thule with their "Soaring With Eagles"

Staff Report

821st Air Base Group

"Tops In Blue", the entertainment showcase of the United States Air Force, performed at Thule Feb. 26.

"The 2003 edition of Tops In Blue, *Soaring With Eagles*, was a musical celebration captivating the entire audience," said Mitch Hebert, 821st Support Squadron services director. "Just as Tops In Blue has been energizing audiences around the world for 50 years, this year's show pleased all."

Tops In Blue 2003 took center stage performing a free, 90-minute show, taking people on a musical journey celebrating 50 years of Air Force Entertainment and 100 years of powered flight. The show, appropriately named *Soaring With Eagles*, was a musical celebration of their proud entertainment history.

According to Tom Edwards, the show's producer and director of Air Force Entertainment, "This year is

indeed a milestone in the history of the program and the history of the Air Force. We celebrate with our fans by performing some of our all-time favorite songs. It's the music which reflects the true essence of Tops In Blue, and it's what we do best."

The '60s and '70s came alive with some oldies but goodies from the Supremes, Tina Turner's "Proud Mary", and the Village People's ever-popular "YMCA." Favorite hits from Gloria Estafan, M.C. Hammer, BOYZ II MEN, Ricky Martin and Marky Mark energized the audience throughout the evening.

Known as the Air Force's Expeditionary Entertainers, this year's team of 35 active duty military members will travel to 22 countries and perform over 150 shows. "They are indeed a reflection of the 'best of the best'," added Edwards. "As this year's team continues the tradition of worldwide ambassadors, this group of talented young Air Force men and women displays the pride, patriotism,

and dedication felt by all Air Force personnel around the world."

"We're proud to have continued sponsorship from AT&T and First Command for the 2003 world tour," said Edwards. According to Edwards, "It's their generous support of the program that gives our Air Force family the opportunity to enjoy a free, premier entertainment showcase such as Tops In Blue". To celebrate the 50-year milestone, AT&T awarded 1,000 call-minutes to Senior Airman Shanera Bullock and First Command awarded a \$200 AAFES gift certificate to Senior Airman Roxanne Wood. As an added tribute, AT&T has provided two 10,000-minute grand prizes, which will be awarded during the 2003 tour year. No separate entry is required; prize entries at the show automatically become entries for the two grand prizes.

For information on the Tops In Blue program or how to join, visit their official web site at www.topsinblue.com.

12th SWS completes commemorative wall for nations heroes

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Burnett

12th Space Warning Squadron

The history of the Congressional Medal of Honor dates back to July 12, 1862, where it was established by joint resolution of Congress, and subsequently amended by Act of July 9, 1918, and Act of July 25, 1963. It is awarded "in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Armed Services, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against any enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of service is exacted and each recommendation for award of this decoration is considered on the standard of extraordinary merit."

There were previous incarnations throughout America's great history, dating back to George Washington's time, where the award consisted of a purple cloth heart awarded for "any single meritorious action," named the Badge of Military Merit during the Revolutionary War. Shortly after this, the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse, later to be revived in the Navy around 1861 and known as the "Medal of Valor."

Originally created for the Civil War, Congress "made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863." Countless soldiers have received the award for heroic actions in service to our nation, many of these Air Force recipients.

Staff Sergeant Mike Aubin of the 12th Space Warning Squadron assembled a collection of plaques and displayed them on one dedicated wall at BMEWS Site 1 in honor of these great people and also to the honorable recipients of the Canadian Victoria Cross award, the "highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to Canadian Forces (British and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Burnett

The 12th Space Warning Squadron recently finished a project commemorating Medal of Honor recipients as well as recipients of the Victoria Cross (Canadian equivalent).

Commonwealth forces originally)." The Canadian Victoria Cross was awarded previously by the British Monarch, and now by the Canadian government. The Victoria Cross originated in England from about the time of the Crimean War (circa 1854-1856) and has since been adopted by the Canadian Government as well (as from previous ties to the British Commonwealth).

The service and dedication of the Medal of Honor recipients embody the Air Force Core Values. They exhibit, without question, the very definitions of Integrity, Service before Self, and Excellence In All We Do.

Come and stop by the 12 SWS and view the beautiful commemorative wall and read about such American heroes as 1st Lt Edward Vernon Rickenbacker from World War I, Major Richard Ira Bong from World War II, Major Charles Joseph Loring Jr. from the Korean War, and A1C William H. Pitsenbarger from the Vietnam War.

In addition, there is a section dedicated to recipients of the Victoria Cross, where you can learn about some of the Canadian Forces finest soldiers such as 2nd Lt Alan Arnett McLeod. These American and Canadian soldiers exemplify the finest attributes of what it means to be a soldier and a citizen.

The 12th Space Warning Squadron invites you to take some time out of your schedule and come up and view the distinguished wall and the heroes it honors.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded to our Unknown Soldier and Congress has awarded the Medal of Honor to the Canadian Unknown (and also the British Unknown Soldier).

**Order your Thule Coin today!
Call Staff Sgt.
Venessa Hernandez
at 3414 or Senior
Airman Josh Moyer
at 3613.**



Peterson AFB dedicates Flag Plaza

By 1st Lt. Michael Andrews
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo—The 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base held a flag plaza dedication ceremony Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004 honoring the unparalleled combined partnership between International and American forces who perform the critical missile warning mission around the globe.

The dedication ceremony of the new plaza was a formal acknowledgement that the 21st Space Wing is a one-of-a-kind, total force wing featuring active duty, Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard as well as members representing Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Denmark, including Greenland.

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, narrated and presided over the dedication ceremony. "Today, the mission of the 21st Space Wing remains international. With 48 units spread over 20 worldwide locations, the 21st Space Wing remains the most geographically diverse wing in

the United States Air Force. With six groups and 30 squadrons, the wing is also the largest organizationally," said Gen Deal.

"To commemorate both past and the present of this wing, we have built and we are now christening this great flag plaza," he said.

"Today we raise these flags, symbols of liberty, strength and our great freedoms that have been bought and paid for at the highest possible price," said Lt. Col. Michael Tinnon, 21st Space Wing Chaplain.

"Each representative here recognizes that our fight for freedom is a fight that depends on the collective efforts of every nation, because freedom is not easy, and certainly never free."

Headquartered at Peterson AFB, the 21st Space Wing is the Air Force's most widespread wing with 48 units, in 20 locations, and 6 countries while being the only wing responsible for providing missile warning & space control to unified commanders and combat forces worldwide.



Courtesy photo

Lt Col. Per Rasmussen, assistant Defense Attaché at the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C., prepares to raise the Danish flag during the Memorial Flag Plaza Ceremony Feb. 3 at Peterson Air Force Base.



Courtesy Photo

Adam Worm, Greenland Home Rule representation office in Copenhagen, Denmark, represented the Home Rule government during the Flag Ceremony.



Courtesy photo

Color Guard members stand by to raise organizational flags during Peterson's Memorial Flag Plaza dedication ceremony.



Photos by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Above: Members of the 12th Space Warning Squadron's Guardian Challenge Team—Staff Sgt. Michael St. Romain, Tech. Sgt. Sean Kavanagh (kneeling), and 2nd Lt. Justin Lewis. **Right:** Sgt. St. Romain responds to an "eval" scenario while training for Guardian Challenge.

Guardian Challenge hones operators' skills

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers
821st Air Base Group

Nearly three months after the 21st Operations Group's Guardian Challenge "shoot out"—where the group selects which two squadrons will represent it during the May 2004 space and missile competition at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.—2nd Lt. Justin Lewis, Tech. Sgt. Sean Kavanagh, and Staff Sgt. Michael St. Romain still look back at their Guardian Challenge experience with a certain appreciation and fondness.

The Thule Times caught up with the 12th Space Warning Squadron's Guardian Challenge team March 15 at their alternate operating location (O.K., it was the TOW Club) to see how they've been doing since competing locally in December 2003.

Though not selected to represent the group, all three maintain that the experience they went through in training for Guardian Challenge has made them, and those who trained them, better at their day-to-day operations.

The team broke up amiably after the competition: Lewis is still working as a crew commander; Kavanagh and St. Romain are on the day staff at 12th SWS. But, for nearly

three months last year—an eternity in Thule time—the three worked and trained together to hone their skills for Guardian Challenge, Air Force Space Command's premier space and missile competition.

To be selected for Guardian Challenge, potential competitors had to endure a series of local evaluations and tests. After the results came in, the 12th SWS selected Lewis—crew commander, Kavanagh—crew chief, and St. Romain—space systems counsel operator, as the 12th SWS's Guardian Challenge team. That was in October 2003. From there, the newly formed team had to learn to work and train together and to trust one another's abilities in order to be successful at the group- and command-level competitions.

Their task wasn't going to be easy. The team had to work their regular crew shifts and then train during what would normally be their off-duty time. If you take that, storms, and the fact that Kavanagh was sent back to the United States during the middle of training to get medical care for a broken leg, without a doubt, the team had their work cut out for them.

See "Guardian" on Page 18



Photos by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

2nd Lt. Justin Lewis and Tech. Sgt. Sean Kavanagh, run their checklists during a training "eval" for Guardian Challenge, Air Force Space Command's premier space and missile competition.

"Guardian" continued from Page 17

"It's was difficult, but the whole squadron was behind us," said Lewis. "We had two dedicated instructors and a outstanding support from everyone."

Time and the fact that Thule is a remote assignment—meaning that there is constant crew turnover and training—were significant obstacles for the team. To overcome that, they trained on the weekends. Furthermore, St. Romain brought some prior experience to the team as a former Guardian Challenge competitor while stationed at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

Still, they faced a difficult challenge.

The competition itself consisted of a crew "eval"—a simulator ride that tests the crew's proficiency in space

surveillance and missile warning operations. "It's a two-hour scenario," said Kavanagh, "but they pack about four days of events and scenarios in those two hours."

All competitors train for and are evaluated on what would no doubt be the worst two hours they could ever experience on crew. "All hell breaks loose," said Kavanagh.

"The key is to remain calm and focused when the [evaluation] events start coming in. Attention to detail is paramount," said Lewis.

The evaluation scenarios can take crews from processing a space tracking task to having to quickly respond to a force protection change or perhaps a fire on the operations floor. Teams prepare and train for "all hell breaking

loose" because if they can make it through that, they can make it through anything.

The 12th SWS team competed valiantly, but unfortunately, they did not get picked up as one of the two crews which will travel to Vandenberg. "Even though we didn't go to the competition, were still leaving this experience as better operators," said St. Romain.

And that's what Guardian challenge is all about. Though only a weeklong competition at Vandenberg, units put a lot of time and preparation into it and that's what truly becomes the payoff for the long run. The competition improves readiness and combat capabilities through preparation, innovation and sharing; enhances esprit de corps; and strengthens teamwork across all mission areas in the command.

Besides the 12th SWS's focus of space surveillance and missile warning, Guardian Challenge also missile combat operations, satellite operations, security forces, helicopter operations, food services, spacelift, and missile maintenance and communications.

The only space and missile competition in the Air Force, Guardian Challenge pits the best space warfighters in the command against each other, determining the top space and missile teams in the Air Force.

Guardian Challenge began in 1967 as the Strategic Air Command missile combat competition known as Curtain Raiser. Thirty-six years, three name changes and many event additions later (and even a cancellation in 2003 due to ongoing operations) the competition's focus remains the same—to evaluate AFSPC's readiness and demonstrate the command's warfighting skills.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Gen. Deal bids farewell to the 21st

'Thanks for your enthusiasm and professionalism over the years'

During our three assignments in the 21st Space Wing, I've had the pleasure to visit all six groups and all 30 squadrons across our great command. That perspective – and the ideas that came from you – helped chart the course of where we've come in that time, plus where we're headed in the long term.

Most notably, the level of professionalism and enthusiasm I observed from you is unmatched in any of my previous commands – and one I'll always appreciate, and use as a benchmark.

With mixed emotions, today [March 11] the Deal family will yield the "reins" of the world's greatest and most unique wing to the eighth commander our Peterson-based wing has had since 1992 – Brig. Gen. Dick Webber.

In our latest assignment with the wing, the accomplishments of our members and programs are nothing short of phenomenal as our 6,000-plus members served in 20 locations in six

nations around our globe.

A listing of your efforts, improvements, and triumphs would fill this entire paper – and more. Rather than attempting such a list (which could seem self-serving to its author), the remainder of this last column will revolve around a few basic quotations and values that reflect why the people of this wing do so well.

First, you follow our Air Force Core Values: ***"Integrity First ... Service Before Self ... Excellence In All We Do."*** We know we can't go wrong – personally or professionally – by following those basic guidelines. You don't sit around, for, as American humorist and aviation lover Will Rogers said, ***"Even if you are on the right track, you can get run over if you just sit there."*** You let your work speak for itself, following Ben Franklin's sage advice that, ***"Well done is better than well said."***

Though composed of as diverse units and peoples as any command in the world, you act as a team, heeding Gen. Colin Powell's vision that, ***"We train together ... we fight together ... we win together."*** You know it does not matter if you're a commander, a communicator, a personnelist, a services warrior, a loggie, a medic, a secretary, or an operator – it simply

doesn't matter who you are – all are a part of the team, and all are vital to its effectiveness. But, even knowing your importance, most usually typify the old saying, ***"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."***

And when the times get tough – as they often have in this intense and demanding environment – you illustrate the words of Dr. Martin Luther King that, ***"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*** And heeding that leads you right back to our Air Force Core Values.

Finally, on top of many other measures, you know that ***"The only difference between 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' ... is that little 'extra.'"*** You are giving the best you can, and even that little "extra" to make your work stand out as you follow the words of Grandma Moses, ***"Life is what you make it ... always has been, always will be."*** And the 21st Space Wing has indeed made it great – for our Air Force and its allies, for our customers, for our fellow Team Pete members, and for this soon-to-be former wing commander and his family. Many thanks, and farewell – happy trails to you!

"Change of command" continued from Page 1

interoperability, resource management, system management, business process reengineering, and security of communications and information systems and programs. The general also managed assigned satellite systems as established by Joint Staff policies, as well as oversaw and guidance of the commands communications support squadron, a field-operating agency aligned under Headquarters Air Force Space Commands Directorate of Logistics and Communications. He directed the resources for all command activities associated with maintenance, munitions, transportation, supply and logistics plans. He also determined logistics requirements to sustain missile and spacelift, helicopters and support equipment at required readiness levels.

"This is a dream come true," said General Webber at his change of command ceremony. "The 21st Space Wing is leading the way for our nation in space."

General Webber was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975. He has commanded a missile squadron, support group, missile operations group, and missile group and space wing. His staff assignments include Headquarters North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Military Staff, the Air Staff, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, and Vice Commander of the Aerospace Command and Control & Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center. General Webber is a master space and missile operator with qualifications in the Minuteman II, Minuteman III and Global Positioning Satellite weapon systems.

General Webber's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

The Lighter Side of Thule



Photos by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Some folks always seem to fill that role as "the class clown." This page, called "The Lighter Side of Thule," is for the specific purpose of roasting the clowns of Thule, or otherwise unassuming people caught in a bad pose or in precarious situations. Above, Slinky sings a duet with Isaac (Kitty Hipkiss Band); the song: U2's "With or Without You." Right, Trigger prepares to go out to a toga party with Marilyn.



Worth reading—a note on thinking outside the box

Three choices! What would you do?

You are driving along in your new Porsche on a wild, stormy night. You pass by a bus stop and you see three people waiting for the bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The perfect man (or) woman you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car. Think before you continue reading. This is a moral/ethical dilemma that was once actually used as part of a job application.

You could pick up the old lady, because she is going to

die, and thus you should save her first; or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to pay him back.

However, you may never be able to find your perfect dream lover again.

The candidate who was hired (out of 200 applicants) had no trouble coming up with his answer.

WHAT DID HE SAY?

He simply answered: "I would give the car keys to my old friend, and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the woman of my dreams."

Never forget to "Think Outside of the Box."

Have a photograph or
story for the Thule
Times?
Submit it to
ThuleTimes@thule.af.mil

Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander
1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers, chief, public affairs
Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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